

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action Dated July 27, 2005
Appl. No. : 10/802,433
Filed : March 17, 2004

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal system comprising:
 - a support pole;
 - a backboard;
 - a support frame connected to the backboard, the support frame including two elongated members that extend below a lower portion of the backboard;
 - a support structure including a pair of upper arms and a pair of lower arms, the pair of upper arms being connected to the support pole and an upper portion of the elongated members of the support frame, the pair of lower arms being connected to the support pole and a lower portion of the elongated members of the support frame;
 - a rim assembly including a pair of support arms that are connected to the lower portion of the elongated members of the support frame and the lower pair of arms of the support structure; ~~and~~
 - a rim attached to the rim assembly; and
 - a resistance mechanism interconnecting the elongated members of the support frame and the support arms of the rim assembly.

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2. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, further comprising a single fastener that pivotally connects the support arms of the rim assembly, the elongated members of the backboard support frame, and the lower pair of arms of the support structure.

3. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, wherein the attachment of the support arms of the rim assembly to the elongated members of the backboard support frame and the lower pair of arms of the support structure is behind a plane that is generally aligned with a front surface of the backboard.

4. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1, further comprising a cutout in a lower surface of the backboard, the lower portions of the elongated members of the backboard support frame extending beyond the cutout in the lower surface of the backboard.

Please cancel Claim 5.

6. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein a first end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the elongated members of the support frame and a second end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the support arms of the rim assembly.

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7. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1 5, wherein the resistance mechanism is biased to maintain the rim in a first position in which the rim is generally perpendicular to the backboard.

8. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 1 5, further comprising a first fastener that pivotally connects a first end of the resistance mechanism to the elongated members of the backboard support frame and a second fastener that pivotally connects a second end of the resistance mechanism to the support arms of the rim assembly.

9. (Currently Amended) A basketball goal system comprising:

a support pole;

a backboard;

a backboard support frame connected to the backboard;

a support structure connecting the backboard support frame to the support pole;

a rim;

a rim assembly including a first end and a second end, the first end of the rim assembly being connected to the backboard support frame, the second end of the rim assembly being connect to the rim; and

an elongated connector including a first end that is connected to the backboard support frame and a second end that is connected to the rim assembly proximate the rim, the elongated connector including a resistance mechanism.

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Please cancel Claim 10.

11. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein a lower portion of the backboard support frame extends below a lower portion of the backboard, the rim assembly and the elongated connector being connect to the lower portion of the backboard support frame that extends below the lower portion of the backboard.

12. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9, wherein the rim assembly, backboard support frame and support structure are connected by a single fastener.

13. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9 ~~10~~, wherein the resistance mechanism is biased to maintain the rim in a first position in which the rim is generally perpendicular to the backboard.

14. (Currently Amended) The basketball goal system as in Claim 9 ~~10~~, further comprising a first fastener that pivotally connects a first end of the resistance mechanism to the backboard support frame and a second fastener that pivotally connects a second end of the resistance mechanism to the rim assembly.

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15. (Original) A basketball goal system comprising:

a support structure including a pair of upper support arms and a pair of lower support arms;

a backboard support frame including a pair of elongated members, each of the elongated members being connected to one of the upper support arms and one of the lower support arms of the support structure;

a backboard connected to the backboard support frame;

a rim assembly including a pair of support arms, each of the support arms being connected to one of the elongated members of the backboard support frame;

a rim attached to the rim assembly; and

a resistance mechanism connected to the pair of elongated members of the backboard support frame and the pair of support arms of the rim assembly.

16. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the rim assembly proximate the rim.

17. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, wherein the support arms of the rim assembly are connected to the pair of lower pair of the support structure.

18. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, wherein a first end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the pair of elongated members of the backboard support

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frame and a second end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the pair of support arms of the rim assembly.

19. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, further comprising a single fastener that pivotally connects the support arms of the rim assembly, the elongated members of the backboard support frame, and the lower pair of arms of the support structure.

20. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, wherein the support arms of the rim assembly are connected to the elongated members of the backboard support frame and the lower pair of arms of the support structure behind a plane that is generally aligned with a front surface of the backboard.

21. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, further comprising a cutout in a lower surface of the backboard and the elongated members of the backboard support frame extending beyond the cutout in the lower surface of the backboard.

22. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, wherein a lower portion of the elongated members of the backboard support frame extends below a lower portion of the backboard, the rim assembly and the resistance mechanism being connect to the lower portion of the elongated members of the backboard support frame that extends below the lower portion of the backboard.

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23. (Original) The basketball goal system as in Claim 15, further comprising a first fastener that pivotally connects a first end of the resistance mechanism to the elongated members of the backboard support frame and a second fastener connects a second end of the resistance mechanism to the support arms of the rim assembly.

Please add the following new Claims:

24. (New) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
a backboard including a front portion, a rear portion and a lower portion;
a support frame connected to the rear portion of the backboard, at least a portion of the support frame extending below the lower portion of the backboard;
a rim movable between a first position in which the rim is disposed generally perpendicular to the front portion of the backboard and a second position in which the rim is disposed at a different angle relative to the front portion of the backboard;
a rim attachment portion that is connected to the rim and a portion of the support frame extending below the lower portion of the backboard; and
a resistance mechanism interconnecting the support frame and the rim attachment portion.

25. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein the resistance mechanism is sized and configured to bias the rim into the first position.

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26. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein the support frame includes two elongated members;

wherein the rim attachment portion includes two support arms; and

wherein a first end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the elongated members of the support frame and a second end of the resistance mechanism is disposed between the support arms of the rim assembly.

27. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein the resistance mechanism is connected to the rim assembly proximate the rim.

28. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the resistance mechanism is disposed in front of the front portion of the backboard.

29. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the resistance mechanism is disposed behind the rear portion of the backboard.

30. (New) The basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the resistance mechanism is disposed in front of the front portion of the backboard and at least a portion of the resistance mechanism is disposed behind the rear portion of the backboard.